

May God bless the proud women of law enforcement. Under your watch, the American people remain protected.

#### HONORING DON BURMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Director Don Burman for his nearly 10 years of service in the United States Air Force, and 8 years of service within the Department of Veterans Affairs, 6 of which was in Nebraska's Second District at the Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. Don is retiring from Federal service.

Don is a Vietnam-era veteran. He served as a telecommunications center specialist, supporting the mission in Arkansas, Hawaii, also Fort Belvoir Army installation, and the Defense Nuclear Agency in Virginia. Don's healthcare career spans nearly 33 years, 25 of which were in private healthcare.

In Nebraska's Second District, Don has served since March of 2015 as the director of the Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. During his tenure, he was instrumental in proposing a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and members of the private philanthropic community. His vision began a collaboration that produced the groundbreaking public law known as the CHIP IN for Vets Act of 2016. This law authorized the VA to carry out a pilot program under which it may accept donations from non-Federal entities.

The Nebraska philanthropic community provided a gift of \$30 million to be used to construct a new 157,000-square-foot ambulatory care clinic located on the grounds of the Omaha VA Medical Center. Through Don's leadership, tenacity, and innovation, a second public-private partnership recently began. CHI Health and Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System opened a new 35-bed Community Living Center for veterans in a non-VA medical facility at the CHI Health Midlands healthcare facility.

Additionally, a new mental health pavilion and a new physical therapy and prosthetics building have started construction. Omaha's new 500-stall parking ramp opens in November, and all seven of the current community-based outpatient centers located around Nebraska and western Iowa have been rebuilt and/or refreshed in order to provide the most up-to-date healthcare facilities to veterans.

In August of 2020, Forbes named America's best employers by State, and the Veterans Administration was cited as the best employer. Among the 17 States mentioned, the Nebraska VA was identified. Bringing Don's private experience and innovation to the Veterans Administration has served our veterans well in Nebraska and western Iowa.

Don continues to use his personal and professional experience to aid him in understanding the needs of our veterans while solving complex issues associated with running a leading healthcare system for Nebraska and western Iowa.

Never forgetting the mission of service to our veterans, I want to offer my sincere appreciation to Don, who is my great friend, for his years of dedicated service to our great Nation and to Nebraska's Second Congressional District. Don's accomplishments in his military service, civil service, and his private career are credits to his dedication to the provision of world-class healthcare no matter the venue.

Don's retirement is well earned and deserved. I wish Don all the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST EDISON WEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Ernie Edison West, who passed from this life on May 1. His fellow soldiers knew him as Private First Class West. His friends knew him as Ernie. Mr. West bravely served his country during the Korean War, and his heroic actions earned him our Nation's highest military honors, including both a Medal of Honor from President Eisenhower, and later a Purple Heart.

Although Mr. West lost one of his eyes while defending and saving the lives of several of his fellow soldiers in Korea, he never considered himself disabled. As a town mayor, coach, friend, and mentor to many, Mr. West was an unconditional friend to all he met, and lived a life of selfless service to his community. He worked all his life to help veterans and was buried in the very cemetery, the Veterans Cemetery North East in Greenup County, for which he, himself, worked to secure the land and the funding. Mr. West's efforts were also crucial to the establishment of the Greenup County War Memorial. This memorial honors hometown heroes on the main street of Mr. West's hometown in Wurtland, Kentucky.

Mr. West leaves behind his daughter, Amy West Hogsett and her husband, Randy; five granddaughters; and seven great-grandchildren. In the words of his niece, Marny Gilluly, Mr. West was "larger than life, truly a hero to many, and personified the good in people." May this brave hero rest in peace.

#### HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO BOB BATTERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to a well-loved member of the south Texas community, Captain Robert Batterson, whose friends call him Bob.

Bob has spent his life in service to a Nation that he loves. He served at Naval Air Station Pearl Harbor, where he worked on December 7, 1941. Shortly after witnessing the Pearl Harbor attack, Bob was accepted for Navy flight training. He was awarded his wings and assigned to Fighter Squadron 1.

Bob's life paints a picture of sacrifice and duty that we can all learn from. May it serve as a reminder of the price that he and others like him paid for our freedom.

After World War II, Bob did not stop his commitment to serving our great Nation. He transferred to the Navy Supply Corps, where he worked for 35 years until his retirement in 1974.

Bob raised five children, four of whom also served our Nation. And he is one of the USS Lexington Museum's first volunteers and can often be found in the aircraft carrier's Pearl Harbor exhibit.

Bob has a true passion for speaking with people of all ages about becoming personally involved in the United States' future, especially by contacting their elected Representatives.

Happy birthday to a true American hero and an inspiration to all of us, Captain Batterson.

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#### CONGRESS MUST REGULARLY REVIEW MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a bill I am introducing today. This bill is called the Preventing Endless Armed Conflicts and Engagement Act, otherwise known as the PEACE Act.

The Constitution makes it clear that the authority to declare war rests with Congress, and it is important that Members of Congress have the opportunity to carry out our duty to regularly review current military engagements. Unfortunately, that has not been the case.

Today, less than a fifth of the current Members of Congress voted on the 2001 and 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force. This statistic ignores the many Members of Congress who have been elected and since left who never got a chance to weigh in on the Authorization for Use of Military Force.

It is critical that new Members of Congress with new constituencies do their duty and provide input into military operations. It is my hope that the PEACE Act can ensure regular oversight is being conducted on future military authorizations.

First, this bill would require each military authorization, called an AUMF, to sunset after 2 years. Now, why 2 years? Well, obviously, it would give each Member of Congress and, therefore, the people they represent the opportunity to review and weigh in on ongoing conflicts.

The President, of course, has the authority to deploy military forces in an emergency and respond to imminent threats, and that would continue under

this bill. Sustained military operations, however, need approval from Congress. This is a principle firmly rooted in the Constitution, which stipulates that funding for our military should not extend beyond 2 years.

The PEACE Act would also set the standards for new military authorizations. For instance, each authorization would need to set a geographical scope on where military force can be used. A clear objective would need to be established for each authorization so that we know when victory is achieved, and the countries and groups that the U.S. is authorized to fight must be listed.

Additionally, the Departments of Defense and State would be charged with publishing an annual report on existing military operations for congressional review. This report will include information such as whether the military is meeting defined objectives, the number of casualties, and total costs.

Finally, the DOD and State Department will be required to brief Members of Congress on the contents of this report every 6 months.

It is never easy to decide between risking the lives of our troops or jeopardizing our national security. However, this is a decision that Members of Congress are elected to do, in large part because we are the body in this Federal Government that is closest to the people.

Military deployments that are accountable to we the people are one thing that sets us apart as a nation to ensure that our fight is always for what is right. We owe it to our troops. We owe it to the American people.

#### REMEMBERING DONALD SCOTT OVERTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Donald Scott Overton of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on April 14 at the age of 89.

Scott served our country in the U.S. Army and trained to be a pilot toward the end of the Korean war, giving him a love for flying that he would have for the rest of his life.

Scott became an accomplished glider pilot and enjoyed building planes from a kit in his garage.

Everyone who knew Scott recognized his giving heart and love for adventure. With his wife and friends, Scott cruised to all the continents except Africa.

Professionally, Scott worked tirelessly as the president of the Arthur D. Crane Real Estate Development Company and owned numerous small water companies.

I am thankful for the immense impact that Scott had on our community, and I know his legacy will remain.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him, during this most difficult time.

#### RECOGNIZING MICKEY STEPHENS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Georgia Representative Mickey Stephens for his remarkable career in the Georgia General Assembly.

Mr. Stephens is a native of Savannah and a proud graduate of Savannah State College.

Mickey served one term in 2002 and was reelected in 2014 to the Georgia House, representing the 165th District.

As an educator, he was a great asset to Savannah High School, Shuman Middle School, and John W. Hubert Middle School. Additionally, Mickey served on the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education and the Savannah Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Stephens is known throughout Georgia for his civic service, including his commitment to the community and his efforts in supporting the education of youth and adults.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Stephens for all of his work to make Savannah a better place to live. Mr. Stephens is an inspiration to all of us about giving back to the community.

#### REMEMBERING JAMES "JIMMY" ALLEN PETREA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor the former mayor of Thunderbolt, Jimmy Petrea, who passed away on April 24 at the age of 74.

Jimmy spent his entire life serving others.

After graduating high school, Jimmy enlisted in the U.S. Navy to serve our country and went on to serve 3 years in Vietnam.

Jimmy was elected mayor of Thunderbolt in 1981 and was reelected for multiple terms until he resigned in 2005.

During his 24 years as mayor, Jimmy was highly regarded by his constituents as a person of unquestioned integrity and dedication.

After a quarter-century of service to the town of Thunderbolt and the Coastal Empire, one cannot visit Georgia's First Congressional District without seeing the profound impacts Jimmy made for his community.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him, during this most difficult time.

#### RECOGNIZING MARTIN BELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Martin Bell's remarkable career as general manager of the Okefenokee Swamp Park.

For the past 26 years, Martin Bell has welcomed guests from around the world to experience the wonders of the Okefenokee Swamp.

Known as an intensely creative and hardworking leader, Mr. Bell's accomplishments are impressive.

Under Mr. Bell's management, many projects were completed to support the park's growth and sustainable future. Some of Mr. Bell's more notable accomplishments include the establishment of the Okefenokee Railroad, the

launch of the holiday light show, the construction of the Cypress Cove annex and greenhouse, and the reopening of a water trail that had been closed for 40 years.

Through his stewardship, Mr. Bell has exposed the beauty of the Okefenokee Swamp Park to visitors from across the globe and built the park into our State's most desirable ecotourism and educational destination.

Mr. Bell's passion and leadership for the park will be missed by all of those, like me, who appreciate his steadfast stewardship.

#### CONDEMNING TERRORIST ACTS CONDUCTED BY HAMAS AGAINST ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the terrorist acts conducted by Hamas against the State of Israel.

These horrific scenes coming out of Jerusalem depict countless rockets being launched from Gaza with the intent to massacre innocent civilians. What we have seen of the Iron Dome's ability to intercept this high volume of rockets is truly remarkable. But unfortunately, some of these rockets are getting through, and that underscores Israel's security vulnerability. It reminds us why the United States must continue being an ally of Israel and why our commitment to Israel's sovereignty and independence is so crucial at a time of heightened regional hostility.

Quite frankly, I am surprised there haven't been more Members of this institution to extend their support for Israel. That is why, this week, I am introducing a resolution to not only condemn Hamas for these acts of terrorism but for Congress to signal its unwavering support to our strategic partner Israel and to the Jewish people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this resolution.

#### RECOGNIZING PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the incredible lifesaving care provided by pregnancy resource centers across the country.

Thanks to the 2,700 pregnancy resource centers in the United States, mothers looking for help, hope, and healing have a safe place they can turn to.

In my own district, Virginia's Fifth Congressional District, we have 10 outstanding centers where lives are saved and mothers are given new hope.

To recognize the exceptional work they do, I have introduced a resolution designating the week of November 8 as